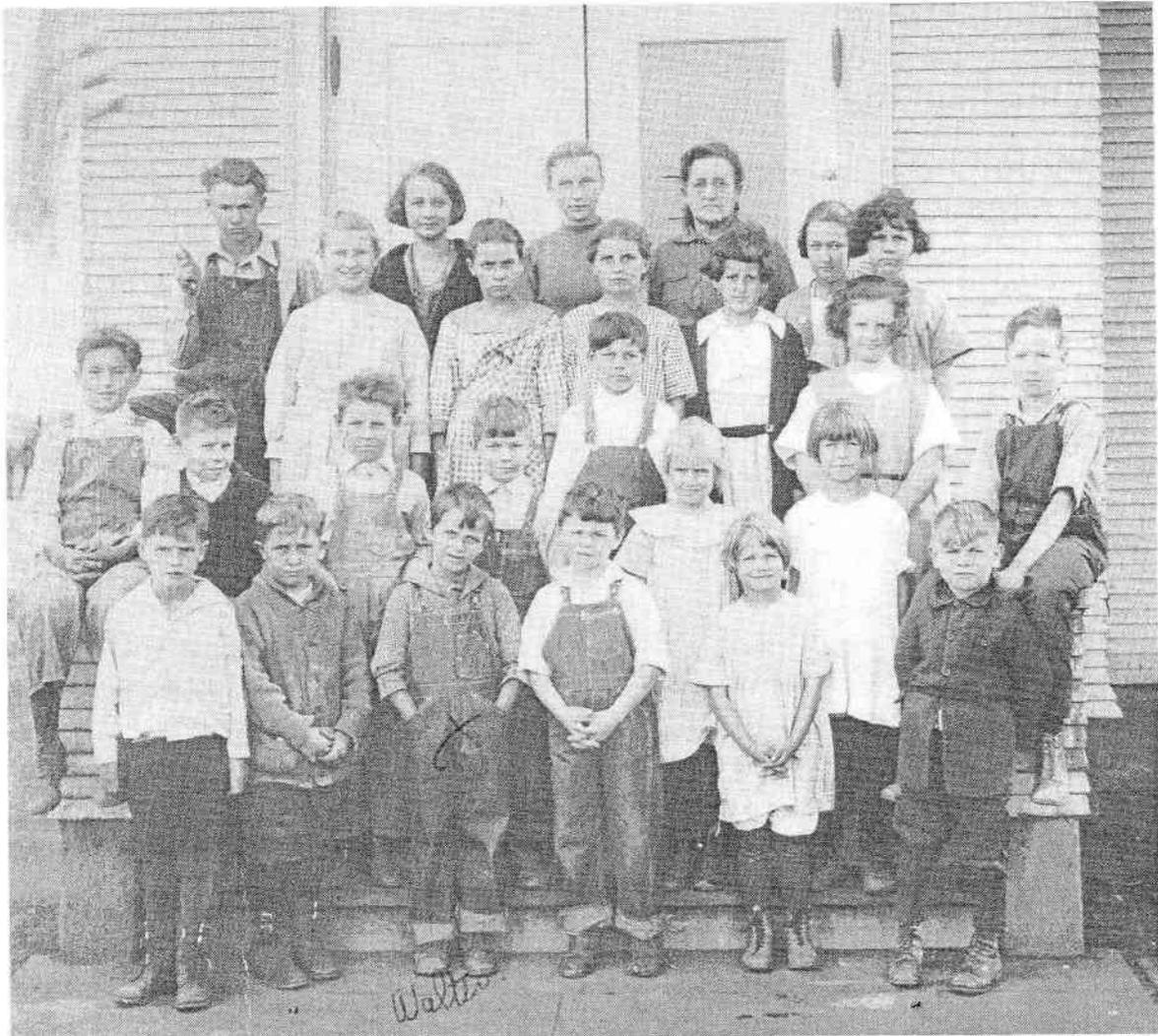


Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin

Vol. XXXIX No. 4

Yuba City, California

October 1997



**Brown's School
Student Body of 1922**
(Photo Credit: Jim Taresh)

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM
OF SUTTER COUNTY
P.O. Box 1555
1333 White House Road
Yuba City, CA 95992

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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 Steve Perry, Vice President
 Constance Cary, Secretary
 Linda Leone, Treasurer

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Elaine Tarke

The **News Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Society in Yuba City, California. The annual membership dues includes receiving the **News Bulletin** and the Museum's **Muse News**. At the April 1987 Annual Dinner Meeting it was voted to change the By-laws to combine the memberships of the Society and the Museum.

The 1997 dues are payable as of January 1, 1997.

Student (under 18)/Senior Citizen/Library	\$10.00
Individual	\$15.00
Organizations/Clubs	\$25.00
Family	\$30.00
Business/Sponsor	\$100.00
Corporate/Benefactor	\$1,000.00

President's Message

As the fall leaves begin to come down (either as result of the onset of Autumn or the heavy winds we had a few days ago), one of our local landmarks is going up -- up the road to Live Oak. The Arthur T. Baldwin brick home which was built about 1922 just west of what was to become the intersection of Highways 20 and 99 has been moved to a location in Live Oak by its new owners. An article about the house and the man who had it built appeared in the April 1996 issue of the Bulletin. A Yuba City landmark is gone, but we are glad it has found a new location instead of being demolished.

The Hall of Records building which was home to so many of the county's records prior to its closing in 1993 is getting some much needed attention. The building was built in 1891 to replace the previous records repository which had burned. It has had roof problems for the last few years, a problem which is now being addressed. A new roof will adorn the building in the not too distant future.

The plans for the agricultural addition to the Community Memorial Museum on Butte House Road are moving forward. The Society has been acquiring funds to extend the west side of the existing Museum building per the original plans. After many set-backs, the working plans are now approaching completion. This is the first big step in getting the addition done. Hopefully, it won't be too long before the Yuba Ball Tractor has a home in the Museum.

I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting in Nicolaus.

Steve Perry
President



There Were No Wedding Bells

Last Tuesday two well-known young men of Nicolaus and Pleasant Grove vicinity, accompanied by several handsome young ladies, visited the Hall of Records and inquired of the man who issued licenses. All the county officials, including the members of the Board of Education, stopped work immediately and prepared to act as witnesses at a wedding. Judge Mahon made an elaborate toilet and met the party with a winning smile and a glad hand preparatory to starting the wedding ceremony. There was a disappointed lot of officials when the young men announced they just wanted hunter's licenses and were showing the young ladies through the county buildings.

Sutter County Farmer - 26 July 1907

Director's Report

Fall is an especially busy season here at the Museum, and we are planning a lot of great activities for you.

In conjunction with the current exhibit, Photography and the Old West, two programs will take place on Saturday, October 18. We are fortunate to host noted photo historian Peter Palmquist of Arcata as he presents a workshop (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) on conserving and caring for family photographs. There is no fee for the workshop, but a \$7.00 donation is asked for lunch. Advance registration is necessary and may be arranged by calling the Museum at 822-7141. Peter invites you to bring problem photos to be discussed. At 7:30 that evening, Peter will entertain us with a program about the life and work of photographer Carleton E. Watkins, whose work is represented in this exhibit. Peter's thorough knowledge of his subject and his charming manner will make this an extraordinary evening.

On Wednesday, October 29, a third program will compliment the exhibit when author and publisher Carl Mautz of Nevada City presents a program on "Native Americans and Photography." Carl is a serious student of photography and author of Biographies of Western Photographers. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. There is no charge for the program. Programming support was provided by the California Council for the Humanities.

Two ornament workshops will be held on Tuesday, October 28 and Wednesday, November 19 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The theme for this year's tree is "A Growing Tradition" which will represent our agricultural heritage.

On Friday, November 21, the Museum is having a Ghosts of Christmas Past sale to divest itself of ornaments, decorations and overflow from the Museum store.

Decoration of the Museum for Christmas is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, starting at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until mid-afternoon. We need lots of hands to create the fresh wreaths and garlands that bedeck the Museum and to help decorate the big tree. No experience is needed, just a willingness to help and a spirit of fun. Bring work gloves, garden snips and a lunch.

The Museum's biggest fund raiser, the Trees & Traditions gala, happens on Saturday, December 13 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. It features champagne and hors d'oeuvres and holiday music amid the festive decorations. Small decorated trees are given away as raffle prizes as well as a special door prize. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and are available from any Museum Commissioner or at the Museum. Don't miss one of the community's best holiday parties.

The Museum's Open House is Tuesday, December 23 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The children's program takes place from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. with Christmas stories and holiday music with John Carter.

Julie Stark
Museum Director

Letter from the Editors

We want to thank Jim and Gene Taresh for sharing their information with us. Although they are not natives of Rio Oso and as much as they travel to various parts of the globe, their roots are in Rio Oso.

Jim's article led us to the Natomas Company. If any of you have information concerning the company or would like to do an article about it, please get in contact with us. Did the English or Norwegian colonies ever develop or were these just great plans that never came to be? Or was it a case of good "PR"?

Does anyone know the identities of the group of people in the article on page one who arrived at the clerk's office to get a license?

The January Bulletin will be an eclectic mix of articles. We have contacted several people asking them to contribute pieces for this issue. Lance Cull will make his "Bulletin debut". Also debuting in the January issue will be Irma Brandstatt Uren who has written an article about her father, Christopher Franklin "Frank" Brandstatt.

We plan to have the April Bulletin focus on the Sutter area. The winning essays of the Judith Barr Fairbanks Memorial Essay Contest will be printed in the July quarterly. October takes us back to the southeastern portion of the county.

We are open to suggestions for topics and encourage you (beg you?) to submit articles to us for inclusion in the Bulletin. Tony Winship has suggested several topics including the Northern Electric Train, the Yuba City Fire Station

which was located under the water tower on Plumas Street (Tony said you could always get a checkers game going with the firemen), the first City Hall in Yuba City which was located next to the fire station and the old Bank of America building. What ideas do you have?

The US Department of the Interior's National Park Service is considering placing the "Live Oak Historic Commercial District" on the National Register of Historic Places. Would someone be interested in writing an article about the buildings included in this district?

Contact us and let us know what you would like to read about in future issues. We would welcome your articles and local history research papers. Was your family early settlers in Sutter County? Tell us about who they were, what they did and where they lived. Do you have memories to share? Is there someone you know who has information to share? We look forward to hearing from you.

There wasn't room on the "Coming Events" list to tell you about the Mary Aaron Museum's fall "Evaluation Day." This is your chance to have your yard sale finds or family treasures identified and evaluated by the experts. It will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 19th at the museum in Marysville. The charge is \$5.00 per two items with no limit as to the number of items.

Linda Leone
Sharyl Simmons



Memorial Contributions

- In Memory of **William Arnett**
Connie Cary
Marge & Bryan Fairlee
M/M George Henry
Randy & Shirley Schnabel
- In Memory of **June R. Ashley**
Joe Benatar & Friends at
Fidelity National Title
Connie Cary
- In Memory of **Gordon Boyd**
Robert T. Coats
- In Memory of **George Bravos**
Sam & Becky Anderson
Ev & Liz Berry
Connie Cary
Gene & Marilyn Lonon
- In Memory of **Betty Coats**
Barbara Boyd
Helen U. Brierly
Margo Crete
Howard & Bobbie Hardie
Gene & Marilyn Lonon
Richard & Elaine Tarke
- In Memory of **Wanda Doss**
Ray & Janice Anderson
- In Memory of **Margaret Ettl**
Richard & Elaine Tarke
- In Memory of **Wm. Fergusson, Sr.**
Marian Regli
- In Memory of **Lewis J. Ferrari**
Joe Benatar & Friends at
Fidelity National Title
Connie Cary
- In Memory of **Graham Garrison**
Joe Benatar & Friends at
Fidelity National Title
- In Memory of **Jane Geyer**
Ray & Janice Anderson
Joan & Bud Doty
- In Memory of **Ed Gustin**
Norman & Loadel Piner
Orlin & Johanna Schuler
- In Memory of **Howard Hall**
Norman & Loadel Piner
- In Memory of **Bill Holland**
Joan & Bud Doty
- In Memory of **Harry T. Karnegas**
Robert T. Coats
Randy & Shirley Schnabel
- In Memory of **Phyllis Kellogg**
Randy & Shirley Schnabel
- In Memory of **Mary Marsh**
Betty S. Miller
- In Memory of **Kenneth Onstott**
Ray & Janice Anderson
Sam & Becky Anderson
Stella Anderson
Judith V. Barr
Ken & Vivian Calhoun
Roger & Jackie Chandler
Ray & Lena Frye
Jim & Bobby Howard
Gene & Marilyn Lonon
Norman & Loadel Piner
Wanda Rankin
Suzanne & Leonard Reynolds
Richard & Elaine Tarke

In Memory of **George Prindiville**
Robert T. Coats

In Memory of **Flo Sherwen**
Bogue Country Club

In Memory of **William R. Smith**
Joe & Patti Benatar
Tom & Marnee Crowhurst
Norman & Loadel Piner

In Memory of **Rose Teesdale**
Louise Blankenship
Richard & Elaine Tarke

In Memory of **Priscilla Van Sant**
Robert T. Coats

In Memory of **Coy L. Vaughn**
Joe Benatar & Friends at
Fidelity National Title

In Memory of **Enola Wiechert**
Lucille Berry
Audrey Breeding
Billie & Earl Burky
Robert T. Coats
Delta Chapt., Alpha Sigma

Ray & Lena Frye
Howard & Bobbie Hardie
The Hedger Club
Helen Heenan
Jeanette McNally
Norman & Loadel Piner
George & Dottie Post
Kathleen & Joe Ruzich
Richard & Elaine Tarke

In Memory of **Sam Zall**
Joe Benatar & Friends at
Fidelity National Title
Randy & Shirley Schnabel

In Memory of **Julia Zehrun**
Lucille Berry



In Honor of
Burwell & Loretta Ullrey's
63rd Wedding Anniversary
Frank & Joyce Carleton

Where Does Your Contribution Go?

The above list of contributions contains gifts to both the Sutter County Historical Society and the Community Memorial Museum.

Monies contributed to the Museum go to the designated Museum funds, i.e. the Trust Fund or specific bequests.

Unless otherwise specified, the donations to the Historical Society go into the Agricultural Addition Building Fund of the Society. Plans are progressing for the addition to the Museum.

Donations specified for general use go into the Society's General Fund. These monies are used to help pay the Society's annual insurance premium, post office box rental, Bulletin printing and mailing expenses and other operating costs.

All donations are greatly appreciated and help keep the Historical Society a viable entity in the community.

Historical Society News

October Meeting

Look out Nicolaus, here we come again! On October 21st, the Society will meet at the Hermann Sons' Lodge in Nicolaus. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The ladies of Hermann Sons' Lodge No. 36 will be preparing goulash with noodles, salad, rolls and their wonderful cake for us this year. Coffee will be served with dinner and their no-host bar will be open throughout the evening. There is a \$10.00 charge for the dinner and reservations must be made by October 14 to give the ladies an accurate head-count when purchasing their supplies.

The evening's program has been arranged by Bruce Harter. Tom Harrington, the Supervising Bridge Engineer with Cal Trans, will speak concerning various Nicolaus area river crossings -- ferries, bridges, etc. If you have old photos of the various means of crossing the river in the Nicolaus area, please bring them (and stories) to share.

In Bruce's absence, Steve Perry will be in charge of the raffle. While no one can fill Bruce's "raffle shoes," Steve will do a good job.

Bring a friend and plan to join us for a fun evening. Reservations can be made by calling Linda (673-2721) or the Museum (822-7141) by Tuesday, October 14.

January Meeting

The first meeting for 1998 will be held at the Museum on Tuesday, January 20. The program for the evening is being arranged by the co-chairpersons, Audrey Breeding and Annamae Berry. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. -- mark your new calendar now and check the January Bulletin for further details.

By-Laws

The amended By-Laws were approved by the Board of Directors at their July 1, 1997 meeting.

Ornaments

For those of you who have inquired, there is no new ornament for 1997. However, the Society will have a Christmas ornament for 1998. The hunt is on for the source for a particular type of ornament -- and you know how that goes! If you have suggestions for future ornaments, please call Linda (673-2721).

Bulletin - Back Issues Available

Back issues of the News Bulletin are available. The cost of issues dated prior to April 1992 is \$1.00. The April 1992 and later issues are available for \$2.00. If extra copies of a certain issue are not available, photocopies can be made at the Museum for a charge of 10-cents per page.

Remailing Policy

It currently costs the Society 78-cents to buy back a returned Bulletin. Since it would cost an additional 78-cents to remail the quarterly, we don't. It's not cost effective. If you have a change of address, please let us know or you may miss a copy of the Bulletin.

Honorary Members

An Honorary Membership in the Historical Society is offered to anyone who was born in Sutter County, California ninety or more years ago; it is not necessary for the person to currently reside in Sutter County. We would like to make contact with the recipient of the membership in order to obtain some information about him or her. If you have an "Honorary Member" for us, call Linda (673-2721) or drop us a note at P.O. Box 1004, Yuba City, CA 95992.

Honorary Members we have written about in recent years include "Tillie" (Scheiber) Dettling, Margaret (Meyer) Madden, Aileen (Scheiber) Marty, Grace (Hill) Onstead, Delma (Davis) Welter Reick. Mrs. Madden is the only one currently living in Sutter County.

Membership Dues

The Sutter County Historical Society and the Community Memorial Museum have a joint membership and divide the dues on a 35% (Historical Society) - 65% (Museum) basis. We also share the membership costs on a 35%-65% basis.

Our portion of the membership fee is the majority of the Society's income. We do not depend on fund raisers nor do we benefit from fund raisers hosted by the Museum (Trees & Traditions, Wear & Remembrance, etc.). Our other sources of income in the past have been the Spring bus tour around the Buttes, the sale of Christmas ornaments and the April dinner. Traditionally, these have not been large sources of money because we try to keep the cost to you as low as possible.

The 1998 dues will remain the same as those published on the inside front cover of the Bulletin. Be sure to get yours paid before January to insure you receive the January issue.

Recollections

by
James F. Taresh

I was born in Greenville, California, on September 16, 1916. My mother was Vera Mary Fraser; her maiden name is my middle name. My father, John Taresh, worked as a civil engineer. He helped put the Western Pacific Railroad tracks through the Feather River Canyon and when he arrived in Plumas County, he felt it was such a beautiful area that he wanted to live there so he purchased a ranch near Greenville. It's a rural area there so he started farming. He did a lot of truck farming and used to supply vegetables to the mining camps around the area at that time. There was a need for civil engineers during World War I and the military offered a commission to any engineer who would enlist. My father enlisted and received a Captain's commission. He was stationed to help with the construction of Mather Air Force Base. That's when we moved to Sacramento; I was about one year old at the time.

The war ended soon after he enlisted, so he was discharged. He then went to work for the Natomas Company; they owned a lot of land in the Rio Oso area. The company wanted their engineer to live in the area where they expected him to do most of his work. Dad worked on some of the levee construction around here. That was part of his job with the Natomas Company. I guess they had to protect the land in order to sell it. As far as I know, all of their land has been sold off in this area.

About this time, 1919, the family

moved here from Sacramento and my father purchased the ranch that is still in the family. My brother, Richard, has it now.

I have an older sister, Vera, and a younger sister and brother, Catherine and Richard. We all attended Brown's School.

I had chores as a child. We had wood fires in the house and one of my jobs was to supply the firewood for the fires. One chore I disliked very much was having to hoe weeds. Around the orchard, there were always weeds that needed to be disposed of. When I was about ten years old, I was old enough to drive the tractor and do the discing in the orchard. My father had a spray rig that was pulled by horses. My job was to drive the horses while the man with the nozzle walked. That's how we sprayed orchards then. During harvest, I "drove" a Model T truck. It had a ruxtel axel in it; all you had to do to make it go forward was push on the clutch. My job was to move the truck forward from one stack of boxes to another. The older men would load the truck with the boxes. When the truck was loaded, they would take the truck to where they loaded the boxes onto railroad cattle cars at Rio Oso.

My dad was growing peaches then. At one time he thought persimmons were going to be a good crop. He planted about twenty acres of persimmons, but I don't think he ever allowed the trees to mature. He found out there was no market for persimmons of that quantity.

Sometimes we would have crops planted between tree in young orchards. I remember harvesting banana squash; that was a big thing then. Of course, we had beans. At that time they used stationary harvesters. One job I had a hard time with was keeping the straw pulled away from the discharge of the harvester. Other people would bring vines up to the harvester and I had to keep the bean straw pulled away.

When I started school, our teacher came to school in a horse and buggy. Her name was Mrs. Jordan. She lived with the Biedlers, as I remember. The school had a shed for horses because other people came to school with a horse; I suppose some rode horseback and others came in a buggy. I walked about two-and-a-half to three miles a day. We didn't have bus service until I was in the fourth grade.

One of the teachers who stood out in my mind was Edith Finch who lived in Nicolaus. She became my teacher when I was in the fourth grade. Later, I played drums in a little orchestra group with her, her husband and one of the Coppins from Pleasant Grove who played the violin. Edith played the piano and her husband played the accordion. We used to play for community dances in the Rio Oso Hall, the Odd Fellow's Hall and places like that.

In high school, we had a small orchestra; this was before I played with the Finches. There were several people the same age I was. It was Depression time and I played with a small jazz group. We played for a percentage of the gate because they weren't offering very much money to play and we wanted to play so we played for part of the gate. I

remember we used to have dances every Saturday night at Elverta. They had a swimming pool and dance floor there. Once in a while we'd get another job in the vicinity because some one who heard us play at Elverta hired us. After that, I had a group of my own. We played the dime-a-dance in Marysville. There was a building on the corner of Second and "D" Streets in Marysville, next to Chisler's Inn. We played it like we would for a high school dance, but the owner kept wanting us to play faster so they could collect more dimes.

I had played piano, but I never got anywhere with that. I decided you didn't have to study as hard to play drums; you could just become a drummer and accompany a group. I enjoyed the drums and could do it fairly successfully. I played in the high school band; I suppose the teacher may have needed a drummer and assigned me to the drums. I had a nice Tap drum set I got in the '30s; it had a nice picture painted on the front and everything. My mother was more interested in that type of thing than my dad; I think she had to go out on a limb to help finance the drum set. I had the drum set until we moved into our current home.

After graduating from Brown's School, I attended East Nicolaus High School. The thing that stands out most about high school is that I was majoring in agriculture and became a member of the Future Farmers of America. My dad was always helpful, getting me started with a registered Duroc pig. I had a small herd of them by the time I went away to college. I exhibited them at the State Fair about

1933. I don't remember any prizes I won, but I became a State Farmer. That's the highest degree of Future Farmer I achieved.

I think we learn about a lot of new things that are coming on through the fairs. I've gone to the State Fair ever since I was in grammar school. I had an aunt who lived about four or five blocks from the State Fair and I used to go down and stay with her. I'd go over and sneak in the gate and go to the fair. As a Future Farmer, I exhibited hogs. When I went to Cal Poly, I don't remember if I came home for the fair or not. I doubt it, but I might have if there was a Future Farmer event happening. I can remember coming up one time on the train from San Luis Obispo for some kind of a Future Farmer event; I'm not sure if it was to go to the fair.

After finishing high school, I attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. It was a male-only school at that time. The school had just about folded and Julian A. McFee was put in as the head of it. He is the one who has been given credit for bringing it out of its failure years. I doubt there were over 400 students there when I attended. It was not a "degree" college at that time; they issued "Certificates of Completion" when you completed the two years of classes. Now it's extremely difficult to get into Cal Poly. We went to see the China Clippers at the 1939 Exposition in San Francisco because some of the guys I knew at Cal Poly were employed by the firm that operated them.

After college, I came home and worked with my father. He was still working as an engineer for the Natomas

Company and needed another person to help with the orchard. I wasn't on a regular salary, I just went to him when I needed money. In 1937, he bought me a brand new Plymouth coupe. That's what I drove when we went to the 1939 Exposition. I got the idea that I would have my own Duroc breeding herd so I bought one or two animals while I was still with him.

In 1939, I purchased a ranch on Pacific Avenue known as the Bray Ranch. I rented it out for a while before Gene and I were married. After we were married in 1940, we moved in there and I started raising registered Duroc hogs and building the ranch up so it would be a nice breeding unit. I bought some registered animals from the corn belt which is supposed to be the best place for all these kinds of animals. I ran that for a while, but at the same time I was involved in the Farm Bureau.

That was at the time when I thought I was old enough to go with the new high school teacher. I hadn't met Gene yet. My mother suggested that since I was the chairman of the Rio Oso Farm Bureau, I should organize a dinner inviting all the teachers to come and become acquainted with the people of this area. That's what I did and Gene came and that's where I met her -- at a Farm Bureau meeting at Rio Oso Hall. After that we started going snow skiing at Soda Springs and Squaw Valley. We skied at Sugar Bowl before there were lifts; we had to ski in and climb the mountain to ski. There were four of us who went skiing together; the trips were organized by the Shell Oil man. The ladies furnished the lunch. We

also went to movies on dates. We didn't go to dances. I was never a very good dancer and Gene grew up in a Quaker community; she took dancing lessons when she started dating me. [Gene says after she became a teacher at East Nicolaus High School, she took dancing lessons because she was told she would be required to go to the dances at the high school as a chaperon.]

At the same time (1939), the Farm Bureau was sponsoring the State Farm Insurance program in California. They were looking for agents to represent them. The agents were hired on a part-time basis. I started working as an insurance agent while helping my father. In 1940, I had my own ranch and sold insurance part-time. By the time I had run my own ranch for about ten years, I could see that insurance offered more opportunities and my district manager wanted me to sell full time. In 1950, I sold the ranch to devote my time to selling insurance.

I got interested in photography when we went to Hawaii for our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary and the pictures I took were so lousy. I thought there had to be a better way. I was talking to one of my insurance customers and she recommended I take classes from a woman who taught photography classes at Asilomar. In 1969, I took my first class from her. It was a two-week class and Gene went with me. She took her sewing machine to occupy herself while I attended classes, but the teacher was so interesting that Gene went to all the classes with me. I could see there was a lot more to photography than just taking family pictures. [Gene says it's hard to get any

family pictures now; their younger daughter has to take them.] We enjoy travelling and have been fortunate to take several trips. I enter my photos in competition and have received medals and awards all over the world. I'm quite proud of an award from Siam. Photography is a fun thing to do and I enjoy it and try to improve as I go along.

I have seen big changes in Rio Oso since I moved here. When we came, they didn't have orchards; I don't remember any orchards back in the '20s. Mainly wheat was grown. I remember the big wheat farmers at Pleasant Grove renting this property from the Natomas Company. Where there are houses across the road from us now, there were big harvesters operating.

Rio Oso had a post office in the store. Walter Miner built the store and operated it for a time. I guess he was the Postmaster too. He sold out to a fellow by the name of W. A. Heady. Mr. Heady ran the store and post office. He was also a trained barber so he put in a barber shop too; I remember him cutting my hair for twenty-five cents.

The Sacramento Northern train stopped at Rio Oso. The mail came by train. [Gene states that trains were more important then than they are now. The mail was fast -- when Gene was attending college, her mother could send a letter from Denair on Saturday and three hours later it would be in Berkeley, delivered to Gene] In the 1940s, when I bought the pigs from the Midwest, they had railway express trains that stopped there; that's the way they shipped the pigs. Before fruit was put in bins and transported by trucks,

the fruit was put in boxes, taken to the grading station and then loaded into cattle cars to be transported to market. I guess they used cattle cars instead of boxcars to let the air circulate.

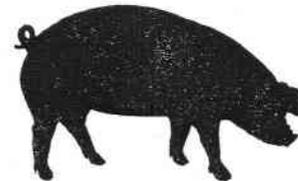
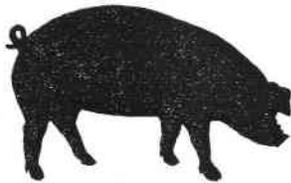
The Natomas Company had a headquarters ranch in back of where the Rio Oso post office is now. The land where the current post office is located was owned by Everett Lynn. His sister-in-law was the Postmistress. She got him to build a post office and rent it to the U.S. Government. The buyer of the old Lynn property got the post office land too and continues the arrangement with the U.S. Postal Service.

There was a blacksmith shop at the

headquarters ranch. When the company wanted to reduce its operation, the blacksmith shop moved down to Fourth Avenue. The building that is now used as the Rio Oso Hall was a Natomas warehouse. I believe my father arranged for the Natomas Company to give the building to the community, but the building would have to be moved. It was quite a project to move it and convert it into the Rio Oso Community Hall.

The Rio Oso store was bought out because of the widening of the highway so it no longer exists.

There have been a lot of changes since I moved to Rio Oso.



First Installment of Money From Natomas Company

Half a million dollars was received in San Francisco a few days ago to pay the semi-annual interest on the bonds of the Natomas Consolidated. The payment of this money was one of the results of re-financing the Natomas Consolidated, which was recently accomplished. The company needs \$3,000,000 to complete its reclamation work, to meet interest payments and other liabilities. A syndicate was organized in London where many of the bonds are held and the amount of money needed is pledged.

Sutter County Farmer - 16 Jan 1914 (7a)

May Bring Out Thousands of English Colonists to This Valley

Since the financing of the Natomas Consolidated by English capital to the extent of several millions of dollars, it is reported that a part of the plan is to bring over thousands of English colonists to settle on Natomas lands in this county and Sacramento county. The report is that five thousand families will be brought in, each family having at least \$3,000 to invest.

Sutter County Farmer - 16 Jan 1914 (2c)

Extensive Grain Seeding on Natomas Tract

More than twenty thousand acres of land in the Natomas Reclamation District, north of Sacramento, have been prepared for planting. The land is part of the 25,000 acre tract leased by Moreing Bros. of Stockton. Seeding is now in progress and between 800 and 900 acres a day are planted. To plow the large tracts of virgin soil, the Moreings have ten tractor outfits at work. There are 16 tractors and 4 caterpillars and they are working day and night.

Sutter County Farmer 1 Jan 1915 (1e)

New Natomas Company Incorporates

Articles of Incorporation for the Natomas Company of California, the newly organized body, to take over the land and projects of the Natomas Consolidated Company were filed last week. The capitalization of the new company is put at \$16,500,000. The directors are Frank P. Anderson, Herbert Fleishacker, E. S. Heller, John D. McKee, Louts Sloss, W. Mayo Newhall all of San Francisco; Percy T. Moran of Mountain View; Geo. E. Webber, of Ross; Frederick W. Kiesel of Sacramento and Frank D. Madison.

Sutter County Farmer 1 Jan 1915 (7c)

Norwegians to Establish Colony Purchase of Ten Thousand Acres of Land Near Nicolaus Reported

A big land deal is now being negotiated which means much for this county, especially in the vicinity of Nicolaus where, according to reports, ten thousand acres have been purchased from the Natomas Company along the south side of Bear River, which will be colonized and settled by Norwegians from the east and middle west.

For the past year, a number of the leading churchmen of the Evangelical Lutheran Church have been investigating lands in California for colonizing purposes and decided that Sutter County offered a fine opportunity. The party was entertained last Wednesday at a luncheon in Marysville by Sutter and Yuba County representatives and also the officers of the Sacramento Valley Development Association which has been assisting in getting the colony located. Several hundred acres in District No. 10 north of Marysville have also been secured by the same parties.

The details of the purchase have not been made public as yet as the preliminary negotiations are now going on but it means many new homes and new settlers for Nicolaus and vicinity. The class of people who will settle there under this plan will be of the best and all through farmers. They have selected a good locality as the land is fertile and the transportation facilities good, being on the line of both the Northern Electric and Western Pacific and not far from the Bear River.

Sutter County Farmer - 11 June 1915 (1c)

Contracts Signed For Colonizing Lands In This County

Ten Thousand Acre Tract South of Bear River to be Settlement New Highway To Be Constructed

A contract between the Natomas Consolidated Company and the colonization association directing the operations of Norwegian settlers coming to Sutter and Yuba counties has been signed by Natomas representatives.

The agreement which is for the settlement of 10,000 acres in the Natomas Bear River Tract, between Sheridan and the mouth of Bear river, stipulates that 1000 acres must be taken up within one year by colonists. The second year 2500 acres must be taken up and stipulated amounts for the years following. The land is not sold outright by the Natomas but will be held by the company until colonists arrive to purchase tracts through their association.

Money for general improvements will be advanced by the Natomas company as fast as colonization justifies. Most important of these improvements is the construction of a macadamized road, nine miles long, to the State Highway near Sheridan. This road will connect Rio Oso, destined to be the main center of population of the colonists with Sheridan, Wheatland and other nearby towns.

The road will cost \$60,000 and will be completed as fast as seems necessary, depending upon the number of families which settle on the tract. The money will be spent by the Natomas, later to be repaid by the settlers. In a similar manner other roads and possibly a church and school house will be constructed.

Dairying probably will be the greatest industry to which the first settlers will devote themselves. The west end of the tract, near Rio Oso, will be settled first.

Sutter County Farmer - 18 June 1915 (7a)

Local Intelligence Over the County

Nicolaus and Vicinity

The town of Nicolaus, on the Feather river, about 18 miles below Yuba City, was found by our reporter to be in a flourishing condition. All the business men seemed to have as much to do as they could attend to. Nicolaus is a very pretty little town, and has a number of fine buildings in it, and is well supplied with all kinds of stores, shops, schools, churches, saloons, etc. The general merchandise business is carried on here to a large extent by Arens & Barbee, who are also large shippers of grain, having a large warehouse on the bank of the river for storage. The school consists of fifty scholars. Mr. Sullivan being the man to whom is given the care of their education. The Catholic church which was blown down last winter is being rebuilt, and will be completed soon. The work is under the supervision of Hartman, of Marysville, is a frame building, with steeple. A hotel and feed stable, of which Mrs. Andrews is proprietress, affords citizens and strangers first-class accommodations. Nobody has ever been heard to say that the food put upon her table was not of the very best. The town has four saloons, presided over respectfully by Chas. Engasser, L. W. Lee, E. D. Boss and J. T. Donovan, and thirsty locals can there find the best of drinks. Two blacksmiths, J. R. Boggs and J. X. Johnson, each have a shop, and do excellent work in their line. Besides these are a harness shop, M. Mutschler proprietor, and a shoe shop. Boggs & Stanley run a blacksmith and wagon making shop: - Several new buildings are going up. L. W. Lee is building an addition to the house occupied by him for a saloon for a drug store and law office. Leaving Nicolaus, about four miles east of that place, we come to the place of Wm. Curtis. Mr. C. was unfortunate enough to lose his house by fire a few weeks since, but is rebuilding, and from the number of men employed, intends to have it completed before the rain sets in. Lee Whitlock, two miles northeast of Nicolaus, has just completed a new two-story house. Geo. Leet, Thos. Beatty and Jiles Jay have each built new houses.

Just south of the town of Nicolaus lives Jacob Vahle, who has one of the best places in Sutter county. It consists of 135 acres, and is set out with a fine growth of Italian Chestnut, English and black walnut, orange, lemon, Japanese persimmon, and a genuine Central American pineapple tree, all of which are bearing and doing well. A sample of chestnuts is in this office, taken from a tree planted two years ago, and about six and a half feet high.

P. E. Drescher lives a mile and a half below, and is well fixed. He is one of the oldest settlers on the river. He is now taking up most of his vineyard, and intends farming the land.

D. H. Redfield, just below, has lived here 24 years. Has 160 acres, with a fine orchard.

Our reporter found E. W. Lee, about two and a half miles below, busily engaged in repairing his levee, raising it to a height of six feet. He says the miners will get away with the farms down there if they don't rustle.

D. O. Mahoney, about four miles below, was busy seeding about 200 acres, and expected to finish in about a week.

Levee District Number Six

John McNamara, the contractor for repairing this levee, was just finishing up his job when our reporter was there. The work has been well done, and is a credit to the enterprise of the people of the district. Mr. Mc is now busy at home.

Francis Heyland, five miles below, has a fine stock ranch. He is a butcher and furnishes the neighbors with the meat they need.

James Ramsey had just returned from his summer sojourn at Emigrant Gap, and was getting rid of his surplus cattle and preparing for winter.

To Samuel Landis and his estimable lady, living seven miles further down, your reporter is under obligations. They understand to perfection the secret of hospitality. Mr. Landis is 74 years old, while his wife is 71, both are hale and hearty. They intend celebrating their golden wedding, on the 23rd of December next. Their place is just below Levee No. 6, but he has constructed a levee along his land.

Thomas Dwyre has 200 acres in alfalfa, and is running a stock and dairy ranch. He is well fixed, and is correspondingly happy.

Roger Mahon, who lives next below was engaged in repairing his levee, and some of it being unfinished, our reporter was able to see the amount of damage inflicted by the wash of last winter, in the breaks and holes yet unfilled. The embankment on Mr. Mahon's place extends one half mile on the river and runs back one mile.

Mr. Hennessey, who lives below Nicolaus, was busy at his levee which was washed badly last winter, and his buildings torn to pieces. He reported everybody well and hardy

David Abdill comes next. He has been a resident of the county since 1849, and owns the whole of Vernon. A high Indian mound, rising about three feet above high water mark, is one of the features of his surroundings. Messrs. Abdill and Mahon are the oldest men on the river, and have the credit of being the first to have their levees completed.

C. G. Roth and John Burns, who live adjoining neighbors at this point, were busy about their respective places, but not so much so as to forget any of the hospitality for which both are so well known.

At Gibson's cheese factory everybody was busy. This is one of the institutions of Sutter county, and the cheese manufactured there has a reputation for excellence second to none anywhere. At present they are milking 55 cows. Mr. Gibson is also busy in leveeing around his 1,000 acres.

W. G. Brown was engaged in leveeing on the south and east sides of his ranch of 3,000 acres. He is constructing this work with a solid board front, with redwood posts set every five feet, behind which the dirt is embanked. The levee is two and a half miles long, and averages eight feet in height.

Sutter Weekly Banner - 22 Nov 1878 (3a & b)

About the People

Following is information concerning some of the early Nicolaus, Pleasant Grove and Rio Oso settlers from Thompson & West's History of Sutter County, California which was originally printed in 1879

David Abdill was a farmer who resided in the Verona area and had a Nicolaus mailing address. He was born in Delaware in February of 1815. He lived in Philadelphia, New Jersey and Virginia prior to coming to California via Cape Horn aboard the bark Isabel in 1849. He settled at Verona where he owned 160 acres. In 1848, he married **Susan Blackford** of New Brunswick, New Jersey; they had one daughter. As of 1879, Mr. Abdill had served as a school trustee for fifteen years, was a Justice of the Peace for several years, served as a Supervisor for two terms and also served as an Associate Judge.

Mrs. A. Arens was born in Bremen, Germany in 1840. She came to California in 1859 and settled in Nicolaus. In 1860 she married **C. W. Arens**, a native of Bremen, Germany. He died in 1870, leaving her with four children. In 1872, Mrs. Arens formed a partnership with **Joseph A. Barbee**. They had a general merchandise business in Nicolaus. In addition, she owned 640 acres of swamp land in Sutter county as well as 140 acres in and around Nicolaus.

Joseph D. Barbee was born in Kentucky in 1826 and came to California in 1852 via Mexico. He mined in Yuba and Nevada counties for three years before forming a partnership with **J. P. Little** in the merchandising business at Rough and Ready. In 1858, he sold out and moved to Nicolaus where he engaged in raising cattle until 1861. He then took charge of the branch store of Kirkaldie & Arens at Bear River. His partners died in 1870. He returned to Kentucky in 1872 and married **Bettie Montague** in Colorado that year. In August of 1872, they returned to Nicolaus where he entered into partnership with **Mrs. Arens**.

Thomas Beaty/Beatty was born in Tennessee in 1828 and came to California in 1860, settling in Sutter County. He owned 640 acres near Nicolaus; he was a farmer. He married **Ann Sellars** in 1856. They resided with Mrs. Beaty's brother from 1860 until his death in 1871.

J. R. Boggs was born in Iowa in 1843. In the spring of 1860; he crossed the plains to California. After living in various parts of the state, he settled at Nicolaus in April 1878. He formed a partnership with **John Stanley** in the blacksmithing business, later buying out Stanley's interest. He married **Nelle Bloom** of Sacramento in 1875. Mrs. Boggs was a dressmaker in Nicolaus.

John Burns, a native of New York, was born in 1836. As a child, he moved to Ohio with his parents. In 1859, he came by boat to California and settled in the Nicolaus area where he farmed. He was married to **Eliza J. Abdill** in 1864.

Philip E. Drescher was born near Arolsen, Germany in 1819. At the age of 18 years, he studied surveying under the State Surveyor in Cassel. He came to the United States in 1844, residing in Missouri; he was a sign painter in St. Louis. In 1848, he volunteered in the regiment of Col. Sterling Price and was stationed at Santa Fe, New Mexico. Peace with Mexico was achieved while his unit was en route to New Mexico. He was discharged from service at St. Louis. He came to California after hearing about the discovery of gold. His group crossed the Missouri River on May 1, 1849, and arrive near Nicolaus on August 28. He had a brief stay in Sacramento, returning to Nicolaus in September of 1849. Nicolaus at that time was a trading post and hotel run by **Nicolaus Allgeier**. Mr. Drescher worked as cook and barkeeper for a while. When the town was laid out, he purchased lots and followed the occupation of painting. When he discovered that the town was not going to amount to much, he bought a portion of it and started farming. In 1854, he was appointed County Surveyor by the Court of Sessions. He was a member of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners from 1863 to 1866. He was married in 1856 to **Regina Vahle**.

Thomas Dwyer was born in Ireland in 1836 and emigrated to the United States in 1853. He came to California in 1855, settling in Sacramento for four years before moving 7-1/2 miles south of Nicolaus. He owned 200 acres of rich bottom land and operated a dairy. He was married in 1857 to **Julia Conrick** of San Francisco.

Francis Gibson was born in England in 1837 and immigrated to the United States with his family when he was about six years of age. After living in New York and Canada, he came to California in 1858 and settled on the Sacramento River in Sutter County. He engaged in the dairy business since coming to the Nicolaus area and in 1879 he was running the only cheese factory in the county. He owned 970 acres of land. He was married in 1867 to **Mrs. Esther Bennett**.

Francis Heyland was born in Ireland in 1806. At the age of 28 he emigrated to Canada where he lived for four years before moving to New York. Prior to coming to California in 1850, he also lived in Ohio and Illinois. After a three month trip across the plains, he settled at Folsom for about two years before moving to Sacramento. He returned to New York where he stayed about one week before heading west again. After a five month stay in Illinois, he returned to Sacramento where he lived for a year. In 1854 he settled in Sutter County, about six miles south of Nicolaus where he farmed 423 acres.

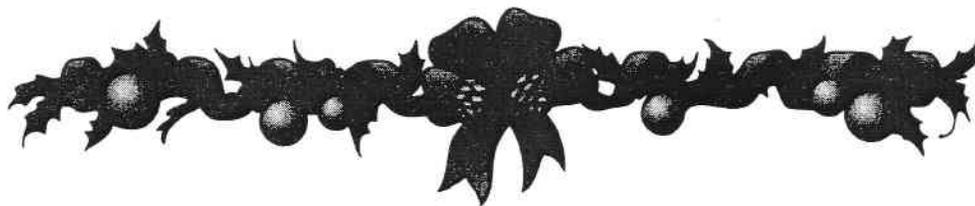
Samuel Landis, a Pennsylvania native, was born in 1804. After living in Virginia and Ohio, he came to California in 1858 and resided in Marysville until 1864 when he moved to

the Nicolaus area. He had always been engaged in the boot and shoe business until moving on to his farm. He married **Hannah Fairchild** in 1828. He was a farmer who owned 200 acres and resided seven miles below Nicolaus.

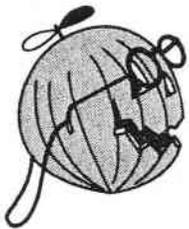
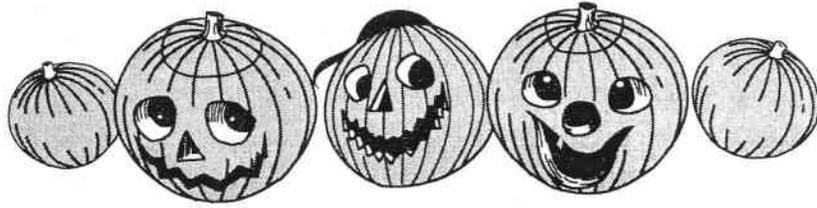
Roger Mahon was born in Ireland in 1828 and resided in that country until he moved to New York at the age of twenty-five. After a two-year stay in Iowa, he came across the plains to California on a journey which took about four months. Upon arriving in California, he settled in Sutter County. He was a farmer and owned 380 acres about eight miles south of Nicolaus. In 1857 he married **Miss M. J. Walker**, a native of Indiana.

George L. Leet was a farmer who owned 320 acres in the Nicolaus area. He was born in New York in 1844 and lived there until January, 1865 when he came to California. He resided in Napa county fourteen months before travelling to the Sandwich Islands and other Pacific islands. He resided in Portland, Oregon, Marin and Sacramento counties, California and finally settled near Nicolaus about 1871. In 1872, he married Nicolaus native **Georgeana V. Algeo**.

C. G. Roth was born in 1824 in Pennsylvania. He moved to Ohio in 1848 where he lived until 1852 when he came to California via the Nicaragua route. He first settled in Fremont in Yolo County where he engaged in the mercantile and hotel business. He was also the postmaster in Fremont and owned half-interest in the ferry located there. In the fall of 1855, he moved to Sonoma county and engaged in dairying and stock raising. In May of 1859, he moved to Vernon which was located just across the river from Fremont. While living at Vernon, he engaged in the mercantile and hotel business until 1864. He then turned his attention to farming and stock raising. Mr. Roth lost about \$8,000 in the flood of 1878. In February of 1849, he married **Rebecca Spect**.



Kid's Page



HIDDEN WORDS

BEARRIVER
FARMING
NATOMAS
RIOOSO

BRIDGE
FEATHERRIVER
NICOLAUS
TARESH

CHRISTMAS
HALLOWEEN
PARADE
THANKSGIVING

EASTNICOLAUS
HANUKKAH
PICNICS
TROWBRIDGE

FARMBUREAU
MARCUMILLINOIS
PLEASANTGROVE
VERONA



Are you interested in history
and preserving our past?

Do you like to meet interesting people?

The Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County
would like you as a volunteer!

Please call 741-7141
or stop by
1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City



COMING EVENTS

October

- 14 Volunteer Appreciation Tea – Museum – 10:00 a.m.
- 18 Photo Conservation Workshop – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Reservations required – 822-7141
- Carlton E. Watkins – 19th Century Photographer – Presentation by Peter Palmquist
Community Memorial Museum – 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Historical Society Meeting – Celebrate Oktoberfest
Dinner Meeting – Hermann Sons' Hall, Nicolaus, California
- 28 Ornament Workshop – Museum – 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- 29 Native Americans and Photography – Presentation by Carl Mautz
Community Memorial Museum – 7:30 p.m.

November

- 16 Photography and the Old West Exhibit Closes
- 19 Ornament Workshop – Museum – 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- 21 Ghosts of Christmas Past Sale – Museum Gift Store

December

- 11 Museum Decoration Day
- 13 Trees and Traditions – Tickets available at the Museum – \$25.00 per person
- 23 Holiday Open House – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Children's Program – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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